

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman Walter McNutt, on March 19, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 131, 3/15/2007; SB 145,
3/15/2007; SB 147, 3/15/2007; SB
213, 3/15/2007
Executive Action: SB 131; SB 25

HEARING ON SB 145

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:12 Sen. Jim Shockley (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 145, Revise wildfire protection laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:24 Ted Mead, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

EXHIBIT(nah58a01)

00:18:07 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt, SD 23

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:19:35 Rep. Mendenhall

00:23:43 Mr. Mead

00:23:54 Rep. Erickson

00:25:00 Mr. Mead

00:25:14 Rep. Lambert

00:25:35 Mr. Mead

00:25:59 Rep. Pomnichowski

00:26:25 Mr. Mead

Closing by Sponsor:

00:28:20 Sen. Shockley

HEARING ON SB 147

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:29:10 Sen. Jim Shockley (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 147, Authorize restrictions on fire hazard area activities.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:31:15 Ted Mead, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT(nah58a02)

00:38:43 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt, SD 23

00:39:29 Brett Waters, Montana County Fire Wardens' Association

00:40:32 John Semple, Montana Fire Alliance

00:41:07 Mary Sexton, DNRC

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:42:10 Jerry Meyer, Forest Service Liaison

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:42:57 Rep. Lambert

00:46:03 Mr. Mead

00:46:19 Rep. Erickson

00:48:04 Mr. Mead

00:53:07 Rep. Heinert

00:53:52 Mr. Mead

Closing by Sponsor:

00:54:49 Sen. Shockley

HEARING ON SB 131

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:55:34 Sen. John Cobb (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 131,
Revise land banking laws.

[EXHIBIT](#)(nah58a03)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:00:20 Hank Goetz, Blackfoot Challenge

01:02:14 Kathy Bramer, Office of Public Instruction

01:05:32 Candace West, Attorney General's Office

01:07:11 Mark Simonich, Secretary of State's Office

01:09:24 Mary Sexton, Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:11:49 Rep. Ross

01:12:29 Ms. Sexton

01:12:43 Rep. Erickson

01:13:28 Ms. Sexton

01:14:14 Tom Schultz, DNRC
01:14:44 Rep. Ross
01:15:06 Mr. Schultz

Closing by Sponsor:

01:18:06 Sen. Cobb

HEARING ON SB 213

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:18:48 Sen. John Cobb (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 213,
Revise appraisals and land banking procedure.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

01:20:57 Jay Bodner, Montana Stock Grower's Association and
Montana Association of Grazing Districts

Informational Testimony:

01:23:47 Tom Schultz, Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:25:58 Rep. Van Dyk
01:26:31 Mr. Schultz
01:27:20 Rep. Vincent
01:27:45 Mr. Schultz
01:28:18 Rep. Erickson
01:28:48 Mr. Schultz
01:30:02 Rep. Erickson
01:30:38 Sen. Cobb
01:31:29 Rep. Small-Eastman
01:31:50 Mr. Schultz

Closing by Sponsor:

01:32:24 Sen. Cobb

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 131

01:34:55 **Motion:** Rep. Lambert moved that SB 131 **BE CONCURRED
IN.**

Discussion:

01:35:00 Rep. Erickson

01:35:30 Rep. Ross

01:35:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Dickenson voted by proxy. Rep. Ross will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 25

01:37:04 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that SB 25 **BE CONCURRED IN.**

01:37:29 **Motion:** Rep. Mendenhall moved that SB 25 **BE AMENDED. EXHIBIT (nah58a04)**

Discussion:

01:38:02 Krista Evans

01:41:29 Rep. Mendenhall

01:42:39 **Motion:** Rep. Vincent moved **TO SEGREGATE AMENDMENTS 5, 6, and 7** of SB 25.

Discussion:

01:44:00 Rep. Cohenour

01:44:27 Rep. Erickson

01:44:38 Rep. Mendenhall

01:45:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-1 by voice vote with Rep. Mendenhall voting no. Rep. Dickenson voted by proxy.

Discussion:

01:45:26 Rep. Erickson

01:46:21 Rep. Mendenhall

01:46:49 Rep. Erickson

01:47:34 Rep. Mendenhall

01:48:00 Rep. McNutt

01:48:38 Rep. Cohenour

01:49:39 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-2 by voice vote with Reps. Dickenson and Rep. Erickson voting no. Rep. Dickenson voted by proxy.

01:50:15 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that SB 25 **BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

01:50:32 Rep Cohenour

01:51:33 Ms. Evans

01:55:09 **Motion:** Rep. Mendenhall moved that SB 25 **BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(nah58a05)

Discussion:

01:55:26 Rep. Heinert

01:56:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep.
Dickenson voted by proxy.

01:56:35 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that SB 25 **BE CONCURRED IN**
AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

01:56:50 Rep. Erickson

01:57:18 Rep. Heinert

01:58:31 Rep. McNutt

02:00:05 Rep. Cohenour

02:00:27 **Vote:** Motion carried 13-3 by voice vote with Reps.
Dickenson, Erickson, and Hands voting no. Rep.
Dickenson voted by proxy. Rep. McNutt will carry the
bill.

ADJOURNMENT

02:02:12 Adjournment: 5:05 P.M.

REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Chairman

NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nah58aad.pdf](#))